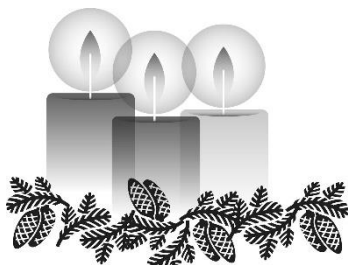


December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent



BE PATIENT

Imprisoned John the Baptist sends his disciples with a question: Are you *really* the one? Jesus answers by listing the works of the Messiah. "Happy the person who does not lose faith in me," he adds. Jesus praises John as the greatest child born of woman, but notes that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. As the end of time draws closer, do you keep faith in Jesus? Are you patient until he comes? Can you dare to be one of the least in the kingdom?

FORGIVE



"Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him/her that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses." (Mark 11:25)

We all know forgiveness is important, and we know we're commanded to give it, but it's easier said than done. Yet Jesus was crystal clear. After all, forgiveness was why he was born, why he suffered and died, and why he rose. Jesus frees us from our sins, and our forgiveness frees us from anger, resentment, and broken relationships. Even Jesus's most difficult commands are for our good...so forgive, for heaven's sake!

PRAYER SERVICES

Wed., Dec. 18	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer
Fri., Dec. 20	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., Dec. 14	4 PM	Violet Walters
Sun., Dec. 15	10 AM	Phil Wittich
Sat., Dec. 21	4 PM	Dale Young
Sun., Dec. 22	10 AM	Pat Hermesch

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Saturday – December 21 at 4:00 PM

Greeters: Ken and Dottie Hellmich
Joe and Janet Wagner
Server: Macey Moorman
Cantor: Rachel Toops
Lectors: Elizabeth Hermesch, Jack Ferkinhoff
Euch. Ministers: John Wagner, Beth Simon
Katy Schmidt, Jane Pictor

Sunday – December 22 at 10:00 AM

Greeters: Ken and Janice Fry
Mark and Lorrie Gilland
Servers: Ben Miller, Katie Miller
Cantors: Wayne and Susan Schutte
Lectors: Paul Gehl, Arlene Gehl
Euch. Ministers: John Muckerheide, Amy Kinker
Ben Harlemert, Amanda Schutte

PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$3630.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 17.65
Loose Collection	<u>\$ 430.00</u>
Total Regular Collection	\$4077.65

\$3,193.00 needed weekly to meet budget.

Special Collections	\$2344.25
+ Capital Improvement - \$705.00	
+ Immaculate Conception - \$385.00	
+ Religious Retirement - \$1254.25	

Thank You!

"There are only two kinds of people we can call reasonable: either those who serve God with their whole heart because they know him, or those who search after him with all their heart because they do not know him." ~ Pascal

SANCTUARY LIGHT – The sanctuary light will burn December 15 through December 22 for Carl and Bertha Mistler.

ADVENT PONDERING – “Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

PRACTICE FOR CHRISTMAS – The children singing for Christmas will have practice at 11:00 AM today in the hall.

REST IN PEACE – Remember and pray for Timothy Lecher, the brother of parishioner Katy Schmidt, whose funeral Mass was celebrated last week. May he know the Eternal Love of God!

Also, please remember and pray for the sister of Mary Merkel, Betty Young, who died last week. May she celebrate her Christmas adoring and praising God in heaven!

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES – December 17, 7:00 PM, Holy Family, Oldenburg; December 18, 7:00 PM, St. Louis, Batesville; December 19, 6:30 PM, St. Catherine of Siena; December 20, 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, St. Joseph, Shelbyville. **Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy!**

MARY & MARTHA CIRCLE – Thanks to the ladies for the wonderful Christmas party and delicious meal which was enjoyed by everyone. A special thank you to the ladies who made preparations for the evening.

Your Gift - Your generous gift of \$1,500.00 toward the recent work completed at the cemetery is gratefully accepted.

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – Help us strive toward our goal of **\$13,683.00**. The amount of **\$9,485.00** has been received thus far. That is 69% of our goal from 58 pledges. Let's keep working toward achieving our parish goal.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER – If you are interested in assisting with the Hunter & Minta Ripley County Community Christmas Dinner, there is information about this happening on all three bulletin boards.

CYO BASKETBALL – Our team plays today at St. Mary's, Greensburg, at 1:00 PM.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING – The Liturgy Committee will decorate the Church on Sunday, December 22, following the 10:00 AM Mass. They will gladly accept any help from other parishioners.

WORD OF THANKS – “We at the Ripley County Food Pantry want to thank you for the donation. Was greatly appreciated.” (5% of our raffle winnings was sent to two organizations.)

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas Eve at 4:00 PM and Christmas Day at 9:00 AM at St. Maurice.

GIVING TREE – Your gifts will bring much happiness to the residents of Silver Memories Nursing Home and to the Sisters of St. Francis. Please return all gifts by December 22.

RELIGIOUS ED – Classes for Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, December 18, 6:45 PM. The children will have their Christmas Party this evening. Each child should bring a fruit for their basket. Because of the party, there will be no meal.

No classes for Grades 6 through 12 next Sunday. Classes resume January 5.

THE LORD'S LAUGHTER – [The New Orleans Saints] team has been highly favored among Catholics since it came into the [football] league on November 1, 1966 – All Saints Day....In 1968, the archbishop [of New Orleans] even wrote a prayer for the Saints: “Our Heavenly Father, who has instructed us that the ‘saints by faith conquered kingdoms...and overcame lions,’ grant our Saints an increase in faith and strength so that they will not only overcome the Lions, but also the Bears, the Ravens, the Giants, and even those awesome people in Green Bay. May they continue to tame the Redskins and fetter the Falcons as well as the Eagles. Give to our owners and coaches the continued ability to be wise as serpents and simple as doves, so that no good talent will dodge our draft. Grant to our fans perseverance in their devotion and unlimited lung power, tempered with a sense of charity to all, including the referees...and may the ‘Saints Come Marching In’ be a victory for all, now and in eternity.” (Scott Warden, Our Sunday Visitor)